

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 13960 01 OF 02 101711Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

CU-04 EB-07 TRSE-00 IO-10 DIWY-01 EURE-00 /092 W

----- 044929

P 101704Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4588

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 13960

FOR EUR/NE FOR WORREL FROM BYRD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: MARGARET THATCHER'S INTERVIEW WITH AP

REF: WORREL-JAMES TELECON SEPT 10

1. THERE FOLLOWS FULL TEXT OF DAILY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE SEPTEMBER 8 REPORTING ON MARGARET THATCHER'S INTERVIEW WITH LONDON CORRESPONDENT OF ASSOCIATED PRESS. ARTICLE SIGNED BY IAN BALL, NEW YORK DATELINE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: MRS. THATCHER, WHO WILL MEET PRESIDENT FORD NEXT WEEK DURING HER FIRST VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, HAS SAID THAT SHE INTENDS TO STRESS BRITAIN'S CONTINUING ROLE AS A WORLD POWER AND HER OWN DETERMINATION TO NURTURE THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH AMERICA.

"THE BRITISH ARE A PHOENIX-LIKE PEOPLE," SHE ASSERTS IN AN INTERVIEW CARRIED BY HUNDREDS OF AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS TODAY. "WE WILL COPE WITH AND CONQUER OUR ECONOMIC TROUBLES AND WILL RISE AGAIN."

OF ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONS, SHE SAID THE STRAINS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 13960 01 OF 02 101711Z

THAT MARRED THEM FROM 1970-74 UNDER THE HEATH GOVERNMENT

WERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO "OUR GREAT ANXIETY TO JOIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY." BUT SUCH CONSIDERATIONS NOW BELONG-ED TO THE PAST.

BRITAIN'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES "WILL ALWAYS REMAIN," SHE SAID. "I AM ABSOLUTELY RESOLVED AS LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY, OR AS A CONSERVATIVE PRIME MINISTER, TO PRESERVE THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES."

MRS. THATCHER MADE HER REMARKS IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A LONDON CORRESPONDENT OF ASSOCIATED PRESS, A MAJOR AMERICAN NEWS AGENCY. WHILE SHE MADE NO PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE RATE OF BRITAIN'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY, SHE LEFT HER QUESTIONER IN NO DOUBT THAT SHE HERSELF FEELS BUOYANT ABOUT THE COUNTRY'S ABILITY TO MAKE A STRONG COMEBACK.

"THOSE JEREMIAHS WHO SAY WE ARE DECLINING, OR ARE FINISHED, HAVE MADE THESE PREDICTIONS BEFORE AND THEY HAVE BEEN WRONG," SHE SAID. "THIS IS A MESSAGE I WILL TRY TO TRANSMIT TO PRESIDENT FORD."

SHE PREDICTED THAT BRITAIN'S AUTHORITY ON THE WORLD SCENE WOULD INCREASE TO THE EXTENT THAT THE NATIONAL ECONOMY STRENGTHENED.

"MRS. THATCHER DID NOT EXPLAIN EXACTLY HOW SHE FORESEES A RESTORATION OF BRITISH AUTHORITY AND INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD. NOR DID SHE SUGGEST SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WILL NECESSARILY COME UNDER HER OWN LEADERSHIP," HER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 13960 02 OF 02 101712Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

CU-04 EB-07 TRSE-00 IO-10 DIWY-01 EURE-00 /092 W

----- 044917

P 101704Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4589

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 13960

INTERVIEWER REPORTED.

"SHE SPOKE, NEVERTHELESS, ALMOST PHILOSOPHICALLY OF THE GOODWILL AND THE RESPECT WHICH SHE SAID BRITAIN STILL COMMANDS IN THE WORLD."

"BRITAIN'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN NO WAY PRECLUDES US FROM HAVING OUR OWN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ROLE IN THE WORLD," SHE SAID. "OUR LINKS WITH THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD ENHANCE OUR INFLUENCE AND THEREFORE BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY ITSELF.

ON HER TWO-WEEK NORTH AMERICAN TOUR MRS. THATCHER WILL VISIT NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, CHICAGO, OTTAWA AND TORONTO.

JUDGING BY THE AMOUNT OF ATTENTION AMERICAN AND CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS AND TELEVISION NETWORKS HAVE DEVOTED TO PROFILES OF HER, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE NORTH AMERICAN INTEREST IN SEEING AT FIRST HAND THIS FIRST WOMAN LEADER OF THE TORIES.

IN NEWS ACCOUNTS, INCLUDING THE REPORT OF HER INTERVIEW WITH THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, SHE IS BEING INTRODUCED AS "BRITAIN'S ALTERNATIVE PRIME MINISTER."
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 13960 02 OF 02 101712Z

ASKED HOW SHE ASSESSED THE OVERALL SECURITY SITUATION IN EUROPE, WITH UNCERTAINTIES HANGING OVER PORTUGAL, SPAIN, ITALY, GREECE, TURKEY AND YUGOSLAVIA, MRS. THATCHER REPLIED: "WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER COMMUNISTS MAY CHANGE THEIR METHODS BUT NEVER THEIR AIMS AND THEY HAVE ENORMOUS PATIENCE.

"WE NEED PATIENCE, TOO, BUT ALSO PERCEPTION IN OUR DEFENCE POLICIES. THERE IS CAUSE FOR GREAT CONCERN OVER TURKEY, WHICH HAS BEEN DEPRIVED OF AMERICAN MILITARY AID AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

"THE POSITION IN PORTUGAL IS ALARMING. THERE WOULD BE GREAT DANGER FOR NATO IF PORTUGAL WERE TO GO COMMUNIST."

RICHARDSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON13960
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750313-0590
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750967/aaaacgtk.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARGARET THATCHER'S INTERVIEW WITH AP
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UK, US, (THATCHER, MARGARET)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006